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Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

Twenty-seventh report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered the report of the Secretary-General outlining the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC) (A/57/761). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that the budget outline is presented in accordance with the procedure outlined and recommended by the Committee in its report on administrative arrangements for ITC,[1] which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its decision 53/411 B of 18 December 1998. The arrangements called for ITC, in May of the year preceding the United Nations financial period, to submit simultaneously to the General Assembly, through the Committee, and to the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration of the World Trade Organization (WTO) for its approval a budget outline for the first year of activities for the coming biennium with a projection of requirements for the second year. The requirements would be presented in Swiss francs in order to conform to the WTO budget process.

3. The Advisory Committee notes that the requirements of ITC are estimated at SwF 33,126,300 for 2004 and that the preliminary estimate for 2005 is SwF 33,523,500 (see A/57/761, para. 13). The proposed outline represents an increase of 5.4 per cent in real terms (see ibid., paras. 10-11).

4. The Advisory Committee recalls that in considering the report of the Secretary-General on experience in applying the revised administrative arrangements mentioned in paragraph 2 above, which was submitted in response to a request of the Committee and endorsed by the General Assembly in its decision 55/483 of 14 June 2001 (A/C.5/57/14), it recommended approval of the Secretary-

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General's proposal to initiate consultations with ITC and WTO for a joint review of the arrangements (A/57/7/Add.10, para. 6). The Assembly endorsed this proposal in its decision 57/572 of 20 December 2002. The Committee was informed, however, that the review had not yet taken place and notes, as indicated in paragraph 15 of the outline document, that pending the outcome of such review, the current administrative arrangements continue to apply.

5. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the resources proposed in the ITC budget outline. The Committee recalls that the detailed proposed programme budget of ITC for the biennium 2004-2005 will be submitted to the Assembly and the General Council of WTO in the autumn of 2003 on the basis of decisions taken on the outline by the Assembly and the WTO Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration, as endorsed by the Assembly in its decision 53/411 B.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/53/7 and Add.1-15), document A/53/7/Add.3, para. 11.